

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-26 and 28-30 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 27 to read as follows.

Claims 1-26 (cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 24~~ A printing apparatus for forming a color image by effecting scanning bi-directional movement of a recording head having recording elements corresponding to different color inks arranged symmetrically in a scanning direction and applying the color inks at different amounts, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of print buffers corresponding to the symmetrically arranged recording elements;

distributing means for distributing print data for a color to be printed to at least one of the print buffers on the basis of an image signal corresponding to the color image; and

control means for effecting printing by actuating the recording elements corresponding to respective print buffers in accordance with print data stored in respective print buffers,

wherein said distributing means distributes the print data to one or some of said print buffers when a level of the image signal is low, and distributes the print data to any one of said print buffers when the level of the image signal is high.

Claims 28-30 (cancelled)